

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings includes Fig. 1, 2 and 2A and replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1 and 2.

In Fig. 2A, a projecting part P has been indicated.

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheets (2 pages)

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application, of which claim 1 is independent.

Drawing Objections

We have added a Fig. 2A showing projecting part P. Corrected drawing sheets are attached. Support for what is shown in Fig. 2A can be found in the specification at pages 10 and 11. No new matter has been entered.

Prior Art Rejections

The examiner rejected independent claim 1 as being obvious over Minowa (US 4,844,632) in view of Applegate (US 4,329,075). We submit that neither Minowa nor Applegate teach or suggest a printing apparatus including a projecting part which projects towards one of the mounting structure and print head and at least during printing, engages with the other of the mounting structure and print head, as recited in claim 1. The examiner acknowledges that Minowa does not teach this feature. However, the examiner relies on Applegate to address Minowa's deficiency.

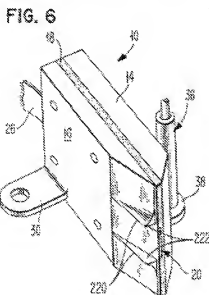
With respect to Applegate, the examiner states that it teaches "a feed path for feeding carrier ribbon, 116, through the printing station", and "one of the mounting structure, 14, and print head, 16, including a projecting part which projects towards the other and at least during printing, engages with the other of the mounting structure and the print head."

As an initial matter, we disagree with the examiner's understanding of Applegate. Even if the examiner's understanding were correct, which we do not concede, the examiner fails to specifically identify a projecting part of one of element 14 and element 16 that projects toward the other and during printing, engages with the other. Regardless of this oversight, elements 14 and 16 are clearly separated by element 18, and therefore, cannot engage each other (see FIG. 6, reproduced below). Moreover, Applegate states that the "printhead assembly 10 includes a holder section 12 that . . . comprises a first and a second clamping block (denoted 14 and 16, respectively) that are arranged side by side with a compressable pad 18 interposed. Arranged

between the compressable pad 18 and clamping block 16 is a printhead 20 . . . " (column 2, lines 29-35; FIGS. 1 and 6). Thus, contrary to the examiner's assertion that element 14 is a mounting structure and element 16 is a print head, Applegate makes clear that its assembly 10 includes both elements 14 and 16 as clamping blocks for an interposed compressable pad 18 and a printhead 20 (see FIG. 6).

Given our assertion that assembly 10 includes clamping blocks 14 and 16 for an interposed compressable pad 18 and a printhead 20, we submit that Applegate still does not teach or suggest a printing apparatus including a projecting part which projects towards one of the mounting structure and print head and at least during printing, engages with the other of the mounting structure and print head, as recited in claim 1.

Applegate states, in reference to its FIG. 6, that:



A printhead assembly has a pair of projections 220 that are arranged on clamping block 16 and define guide edges 222 that center the ribbon 116 relative to the printhead 20. With the addition of projections 220, the printhead assembly 10 serves additionally to align the ribbon 116 in the direction perpendicular to the line of print . . . (column 4, lines 16-20).

Thus, while Applegate teaches a pair of projections 220, these projections 220 are for centering the ribbon 116 relative to the printhead 20. However, FIG. 6 (reproduced above) clearly shows that the projections 220 neither project toward the printhead 20 nor engage the printhead 20.


For at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Minowa in view of Applegate. Claims 2-13 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Minowa in view of Applegate for at least the same reasons claim 1 is patentable.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Enclosed is a Petition for Extension of Time (two months) and the associated fee (\$450). Please apply any additional charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing 11033-067US1.

Respectfully submitted,

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